

OCI - 1990 - 56

3 March 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: NSC Briefing (279th), 8 March 1956

1. The following material was prepared for the DCI's possible use before the Council at its 279th meeting (0900, 8 March 1956):

- a. Middle East Situation & UK Position (D/AA, D/West, map)
- b. ME Background - Syrian Arms (D/AA)
- 25X6 ☐ c. ME Background - [REDACTED]
- * d. ME Background - [REDACTED] (D/AA)
- e. ME Background - UK Petroleum Statistics (D/West)
- * f. ME Background - Arab/Israeli O/B Notes (D/AA)
- g. French North Africa (D/AA, D/West, stock map)
- h. Africa Background - Gruenther Report (D/West)
- i. Mainland Southeast Asia (D/AA, stock map)
- * - Wednesday starters

25X1C8a

25X1A9a

2. [REDACTED] reports as follows on use of this material:

25X6

a. DCI opened by reading the Watch Committee [REDACTED] "conclusions" on Arab/Israeli situation. He then presented the Middle East topic in somewhat reordered form--presenting the general picture first, [REDACTED] second and the UK oil stake and Jordanian developments last. Additionally, he cited a DD/P cable concerning a recent hardening in Nasr's attitudes. Map was used.

b. DCI then turned to French North Africa, following cards closely. As an addition, he cited a State cable regarding prospects for PCF support of Mollet. He emphasized the effect on NATO of French troop transfers, as reported by Gruenther. DCI concluded his briefing with the warning note that a bad outcome in Algeria could topple France, with nothing visible in the rubble but the Communists and De Gaulle. Map was used.

25X1A9a

c. DCI did not make use of the protective Southeast Asia piece during the time [REDACTED] was present.

PRESENTATIONS DIVISION

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